Residential Life…

Connecting with Your Roommate

Maybe you had your own room in the past. Now, you'll be sharing space – whether it's the bedroom or living room & kitchen. This requires flexibility and consideration. Getting used to the concept of compromise is essential for a successful roommate relationship.

The Room

Arrange the room together so that it feels like home for both of you. When you want to change things around, talk to each other first.

The Stuff

Sharing *everything* may not be the best plan. Talk about what will be shared and what won't be as well as what needs to be asked for each time it is used. Is it OK to use a pen without asking? Clothes? TV? Computer?

The Alarm Clock

Talk now, before the snooze brings you to your last bit of patience. Will you both set alarms? How loud should it be? How long before it needs to be turned off? How many times is OK to hit the snooze?

The Guests

You may have guests visit during visitation hours (see Resident Student Handbook). How will you handle it if friends stop by to see you while your roommate is studying? Overnight guests must be over 18 and registered at the front desk. Check with your roommate before inviting someone. Talk to your roommate about what conditions there are for the guest.

How to Talk to Your Roommate

Some tips to help you talk to your roommate and have a good year.

- Get to know them. Ask questions – where did they go to school? What do they like to do? What's their family like? Etc. And share some information about yourself.
- Avoid Gossip. The rumor mill runs rampant in residence halls. Steer clear of those who gossip. Go directly to the source if you have a problem.
- Go to the Source. If you have a concern or problem with someone, talk to them directly. Otherwise, they do not know that you have a problem. Bring up the concern directly…don't beat around the bush.
- Expect Success! Start the year off with an optimistic attitude.
- Make Eye Contact. Looking at the person you are talking to strengthens the message.
- Agree to Disagree! There will be times when your values are not the same as your roommates. It doesn't mean one of you is right and the other wrong. Know that you can understand each other and agree to uphold your own values. It's OK.

Safety on Campus

SVSU has a safe campus. To keep it safe, we need everyone to do their part. Some ways to help keep SVSU safe include:

- Locking your Room. It only takes a short time for something to happen in your room. Lock the door and carry your key.
- Carry Your ID Card. This gives you access to your building where live, allows you access to the Ryder Center and to Athletic Events, access to Dining Facilities on campus, laundry money is stored on this card AND it serves as identification on campus!
- Report Suspicious Behavior. If you notice something that doesn't look or feel right, let University Police or your RA know right away.
- Leave Doors Closed. Propping doors, especially exterior ones allow ANYONE access to the building, not just the person you are propping it for. Protect yourself and your neighbors by leaving doors closed.
- Walk With People. Go with other people when you are going to class or events on campus. It's more fun and it's safer.
- Pay Attention. Sometimes it's the little things that need attention – a window that isn't locking right, loose doors, leaking water sources. Report these to your RA so it can get fixed.
- Exit the Building when the Fire Alarm Goes Off. For your safety and others, please exit the building promptly when the fire alarm goes off. You don't know if it's a drill or the real deal. Get out safely!
- Cook with Care. Pay attention to your food while cooking. Many cooking disasters and kitchen fires are caused by food being left on the stove unattended.

Random Tips

- Spend Time Wisely – time flies when you're having fun. Pay attention to how much time you are spending on Facebook, hanging out, playing video games, etc. Be sure to save time for studying.
- Find Your Study Zone! Find a place on campus where you can go and study, without interruptions. Your room, the library, a lounge, an empty classroom – you choose. Schedule time for yourself to study each day.
- Caution – Social Media – it's addicting and what you say here, doesn't stay here. It can impact your reputation and more. Promote your best self on-line.
- Protect Your Personal Information. Log out of the computer when you are done –this includes social media sites and email too. Keep your Social Security number and credit card information private.
- Keep an Eye on Your Stuff. Simply put, don't leave your stuff unattended – at the library, at the gym, in the cafeteria.
- beFriend the Faculty. They are human – get to know your professors. Give them respect and attention and you could learn more than you pay for. Stop by their office to get to know them or ask a question.
- Show UP! Just show up to events and meetings. Take advantage of the opportunities that are available to you. You might find things you like that you never knew about. You might meet some new friends. Show Up!